

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 2-4, 27-28, and 33-35 are currently amended. Claims 1, 5-10, 13-22 are cancelled.

5

Claims 27-28 are amended to correct informalities. Claims 3 and 34 include minor amendments to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Support for amended claims 2 and 33 can be found at least on page 33, line 27 to page 34, line 4 of the application as originally filed. Support for claims 4 and 35 can be found at least on page 40, lines 12-19 of the application as originally filed. No new matter is introduced.

10

Regarding Claim Objections

Claim 28 was objected for depending on a cancelled claim. Claim 28 is currently amended to depend from claim 23.

15

Regarding 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 2-4, 11, 12, 23-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Bent et al (US 6,901,441) in view of Lehman et al (US 5,974,420) in further view of Rowstron et al (US 6,751,619).

20

Applicant would like to note that the detailed action of the office action fails to specifically reference elements or passages in Rowstron. Instead, the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections of the claims appear to be over Bent in view of Lehman only.

25

With respect to independent claims 23 and 29, Applicant traverses this rejection on the grounds that not all elements are taught by the cited combination of references of Bent and Lehman. It is noted that independent claims 23 and 29 are directed to exchanging events, where each event includes a set of *unordered* named fields. The Examiner states that Bent
5 in view of Lehman does not teach that each event comprises a set of unordered named fields, instead, Bent does teach ordered named fields. Similarly, it is noted that Lehman teaches “ordered vectors of fields that each describe a type and a value” (col. 4, lines 19-20 of Lehman).

10 The Examiner states that having a set of unordered named fields is an obvious feature to one ordinary skill in the art. Applicant submits that having unordered named fields is not an obvious feature to one of ordinary skill in the art. In particular, many existing systems rely on the programmer to determine in advance the formats and meanings for tuples to be exchanged. In other words, existing systems typically include homogeneous applications
15 with the same fixed tuple format. By having a predetermined format, the tuples have ordered fields in a hierarchical manner to facilitate transmission of tuples from one client to another. Bent and Lehman are related to such standard tuple applications, therefore they have ordered fields. In fact, Applicant submits that the ordered fields of Bent and Lehman teach away from the unordered fields of claims 23 and 29.

20

Fig. 8 (attached below) and the passage starting from page 32, line 23 to page 33, line 16 of the originally filed application describe distinct and non-obvious advantages to having unordered fields versus ordered fields. As can be seen in Fig. 8 and the above-referenced passage, having events with unordered fields allow for flexibility, thereby allowing the

system to be extensible to new applications for interoperability. This is desirable in an interactive workspace as described in the originally filed application and is not taught or suggested in the cited references.

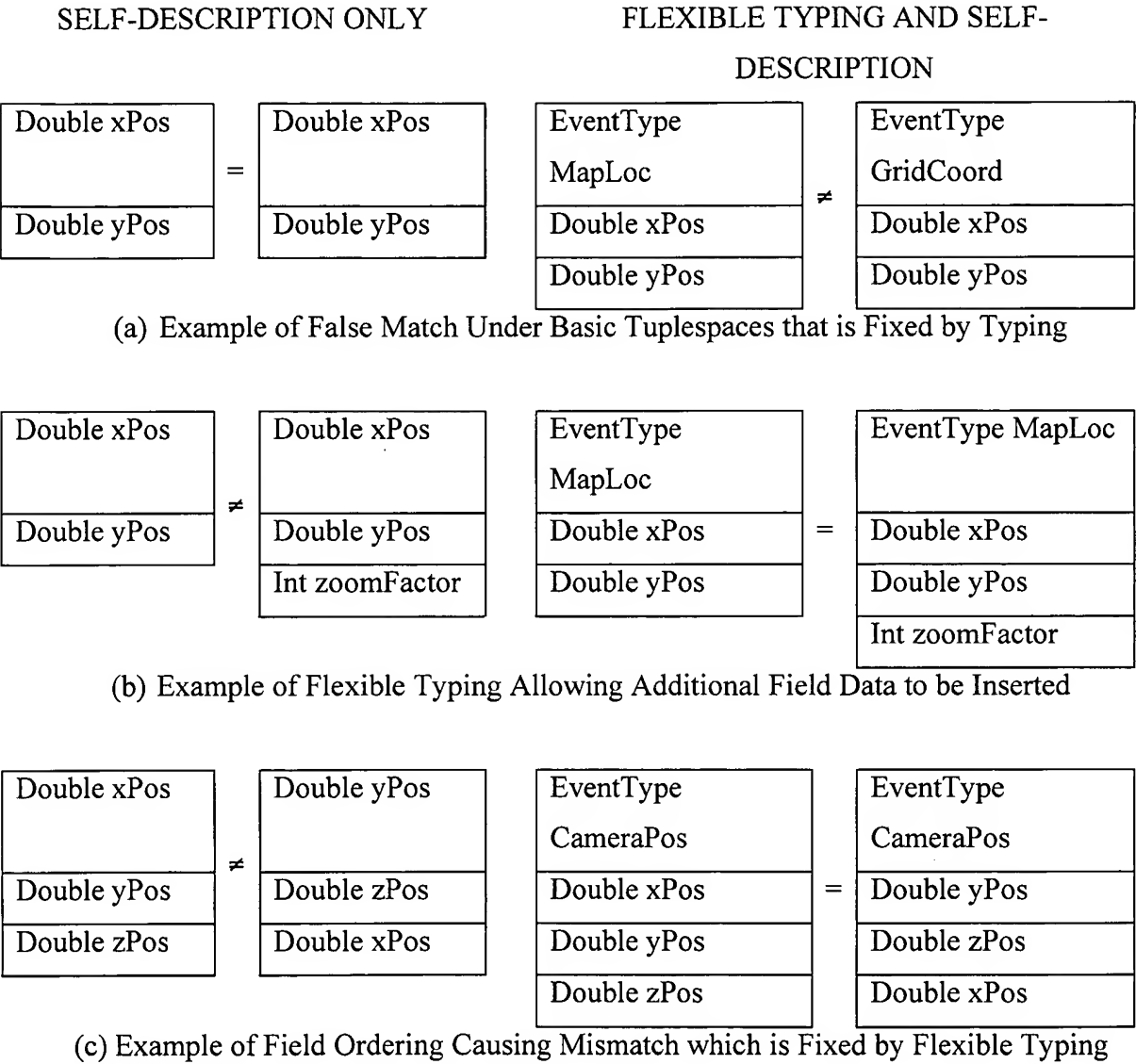


FIG. 8

For at least these reasons, Applicant holds claims 23 and 29 allowable over the cited references of Bent and Lehman as the cited references do not include all elements of claims 23 and 29. Claims 2-4, 11-12, and 24-28 depend from claim 23, so the above arguments in connection with claim 1 are also responsive to the rejections of claims 2-4,
5 11-12, and 24-28. Similarly, Claims 30-39 depend from claim 29, so the above arguments in connection with claim 29 are also responsive to the rejections of claims 30-39. Accordingly, Applicant holds that claims 2-4, 11-12, and 23-39 are allowable over the cited references.

10 In addition to the above arguments in connection with claims 23 and 29, Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-4, 24, 30, and 33-35 are allowable over the cited references. In particular, with regards to currently amended claims 2 and 33, the cited texts of Bent and Lehman do not teach the further feature of source *and* target fields, wherein the target fields are set to wildcards by default for the posted events, and wherein the
15 standard source fields are set to wildcards by default for the template events for retrieval.

With regards to claims 24 and 30, claims 24 and 30 require an expiration field for determining an expiration time of a posted event. The cited texts of Bent and Lehman do not teach or suggest an expiration field. In particular, the cited text of Bent (col. 5, lines 1-
20 33 of Bent) includes discussion of a TupleID for identifying tuples but does not refer to an expiration field. Furthermore, the cited text of Lehman (col. 5, line 25-col. 6, line 17, col. 6, line 55-col. 7, line 55) also does not teach or suggest an expiration field. The cited text of Lehman discusses swapping tuples but does not refer to an expiration field.

With regards to claims 3 and 34, claims 3 and 34 teach that each event includes multiple standard fields, including a TimeToLive, and a TimeStamp. Applicant submits that the cited text of Bent (col. 5, lines 1-33 of Bent) does not teach or suggest a TimeToLive field and a TimeStamp field. The TimeToLive field is related to the expiration field disclosed in
5 claims 24 and 30 discussed above.

With regards to claims 4 and 35, claims 4 and 35 require the further features of formal and virtual field values. The cited texts of Bent and Lehman fail to teach or suggest formal *and* *virtual* field values as required by claims 4 and 35. Formal and virtual field values allow
10 for flexible event matching as described in the application as originally filed.

For at least these reasons, Applicant holds claims 2-4, 24, 30, and 33-35 allowable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant hereby submits a bona fide attempt to address the objections and rejections in the Office Action and argues why the present claims are different from the art of record.

- 5 The Examiner is sincerely invited to telephone the undersigned at 650-424-0100 for clarification or any suggested actions such as an Examiner's Amendment to accelerate prosecution and forward the present application to allowance. Allowance of the claims now in the application is kindly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

/ Trieu T. Mai /

Trieu T. Mai
Reg. No. 61,354
Lumen Patent Firm, Inc.
2345 Yale Street, Second Floor
Palo Alto, CA 94306
650-424-0100 (phone)